

Amendments to the Claims

Claim 1 (Currently amended): A powered planer tool, said planer tool having a cylinder with at least one cutter blade mounted thereon;

~~drive means~~a motor to cause the cylinder to rotate about an axis of rotation with a portion of the cylinder exposed through an opening in a planing surface of the planer to cause the removal of material from a surface of a workpiece along which the planing surface is moved;

said cylinder and ~~drive means~~motor mounted within a housing and wherein the ~~drive means~~motor is positioned in the housing above the axis of rotation of the cylinder~~[[.]]~~; and

the housing includes a chip and debris removal system, said system, said system has at least one channel that passes from an opening at or adjacent to a blade chamber in which the cylinder is located, said channel leading to at least two passages, each passage having an opening to allow the passage of chips and debris from the housing, with one passage leading to an opening on a first side of the housing to the rear of the blade chamber, and the other passage leading to an opening at a rear or the other side of the housing to the rear of the blade chamber.

Claim 2 (Withdrawn): A planer according to claim 1 wherein the drive means is located in the planer such that the drive means motor lies within a 120 degree arc depending upwardly from the rotational axis of the cylinder.

Claim 3 (Withdrawn): A planer according to claim 1 wherein the drive means is positioned above the said axis of rotation of the cylinder and offset to one side or the other of said axis.

Claim 4 (Original): A planer according to claim 1 wherein the weight of the motor is above the cutting blades.

Claim 5 (Withdrawn): A planer according to claim 4 wherein the weight of the motor is directly above the cutting blade cylinder.

Claim 6 (Currently amended): A planer according to claim 1 wherein the blade cylinder is rotatably mounted within a blade chamber, the blade chamber being a void space into which chips or shavings from the workpiece are drawn by ~~the~~a stream of air created by ~~the~~a high speed rotation of the ~~blade~~-cylinder.

Claim 7 (Cancelled).

Claim 8 (Currently amended): A planer according to claim ~~[[7]]~~1 wherein the chips or shavings from the workpiece drawn into the blade chamber by the cylinder rotation and are caused, by ~~the~~a draft associated with the high speed rotation, to move directly into the at least one channel, and out of the rear, or sides of the housing located towards the rear of the cylinder of the planer.

Claim 9 (Withdrawn): A planer according to claim 7 wherein a movable passage is incorporated within the planer or attached to the rear of the planer at the end of the at least one channel, and is used to direct the chips or shavings in a direction desired by the planer operator.

Claim 10 (Cancelled)

Claim 11 (Currently amended): A planer according to claim [[10]]1 wherein a user selection means ~~are~~ areselectable flap is provided to allow one of the passages to be opened to allow the chips and debris to move through the same, with the other passage held closed.

Claim 12 (Currently amended): A planer according to claim [[7]]1 wherein two channels are provided from the blade chamber, each channel leading to a passage each passage having an opening to allow the passage of the chips and debris from the housing, with one passage leading to an opening on a first side of the body housing, and the other ~~passage~~ passage leading to an opening at the rear or the other side of the housing.

Claim 13 (Original): A planer according to claim 12 wherein the two channels both lead from the blade chamber and lie in a side by side arrangement as they pass towards the rear of the housing.

Claim 14 (Currently amended): A planer according to claims 12 or 13 wherein a user ~~selection means are~~selectable flap is provided to allow one of the channels or passages to be opened to allow the chips and debris to move through the same, with the other channel and passage closed.

Claim 15 (Currently amended): A planer according to ~~any of claims 10-14~~claim 1 wherein the channel or channels pass in a path along the housing adjacent the planing surface of the planer.

Claim 16 (Currently amended): A planer according to ~~any of claims 10-15~~claim 1 wherein the channel or channels pass along a path in the housing which is substantially centrally of the housing.

Claim 17 (Currently amended): A powered planer tool, said planer tool having a cylinder with at least one cutter blade mounted thereon;

~~drive means~~a motor to cause the cylinder to rotate about an axis of rotation with a portion of the cylinder exposed through an opening in a planing surface of the planer to cause the removal of material from a surface along which the planing surface is moved;

said cylinder and ~~drive means~~motor mounted within a housing and wherein the ~~blade~~ cylinder for the planer is provided with more than two straight cutting blades; said blades positioned substantially 120 degrees or less, apart around the cylinder periphery[.]; and

the housing includes a chip and debris removal system, said system has at least one channel that passes from an opening at or adjacent to a blade chamber in which the cylinder is located, each channel leading to at least two passages, each passage having an opening to allow the passage of chips and debris from the housing, with one passage leading to an opening on a first side of the housing to the rear of the blade chamber, and the other passage leading to an opening at a rear or the other side of the housing to the rear of the blade chamber.

Claim 18 (Original): A planer according to claim 17 wherein in one rotation of the cylinder at least three different blades contact with the surface to be planed.

Claim 19 (Currently amended): A powered planer tool, said planer tool comprising:

a cylinder with at least one cutter blade mounted thereon;

~~drive means~~a motor to cause the cylinder to rotate about an axis of rotation with a portion of the cylinder exposed through an opening in a planing surface of the planer to cause the removal of material from a surface along which the planing surface is moved;

said cylinder and ~~drive means~~motor mounted within a housing and wherein the blade cylinder for the planer is provided with two or more helically shaped blades; said blades positioned substantially 180 degrees or less, apart around the cylinder periphery[.]; and

the housing includes a chip and debris removal system, said system has at least one channel that passes from an opening at or adjacent to a blade chamber in which the cylinder is located, each channel leading to a passage, each passage having an opening to allow the passage of chips and debris from the housing, with one passage leading to an opening on a first side of the housing to the rear of the blade chamber, and the other passage leading to an opening at a rear or the other side of the housing to the rear of the blade chamber.

Claim 20 (Withdrawn): A planer including:

a housing having a base planning surface for contacting a work piece;

a rotatable blade assembly located within said housing and including one or more

cutting blades for engaging with and planning the work piece;

a motor associated with the blade assembly and operable to cause rotation of the blade assembly;

wherein the motor is located within the planer housing directly above the blade

assembly such that the weight of the motor is directly above the cutting blades.

Claim 21 (Withdrawn): A planer according to claim 20, wherein the blade assembly is rotatably mounted within a blade chamber, the blade chamber being a void space surrounding the blade assembly into which chips or shavings off the workpiece are drawn by the stream of air created by the high speed rotation of the blade assembly.

Claim 22 (Withdrawn): A planer according to claim 21, wherein the housing of the planer further includes a channel for removal of chips or shavings from the workpiece.

Claim 23 (Withdrawn): A planer according to claim 22, wherein the channel opens at one end into the blade chamber and the opposite end of the channel opens at the rear of the planer.

Claim 24 (Withdrawn): A planer according to claim 23, further including two passages connected to the channel selectively via a selection means for directing the chips or shavings along an open passage as desired by the planer operator.

Claim 25 (Currently amended): A planer according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, 17 or 19, wherein the planer is portable.

Claim 26 (Currently amended): A planer according to ~~any preceding claim~~ claim 1, 17 or 19, wherein the planer is battery operated.

Claim 27 (Currently amended): A planer according to ~~any one of claims 1-25~~ claim 1, 17 or 19, wherein the planer is provided with a power cord and operated by main power.